

Math that Matters

[Andee Rubin](#)

Threshold: Exploring the Future of Education (2005)

Summary

This report presents the case for replacing the algebra/calculus track with data literacy—a critical skill for modern life.

"It is critical that young students learn to ask and answer the 'context' questions about a set of data, to evaluate the legitimacy of data values, and to collect and organize data to answer particular questions. However, this kind of data activity misses the core of statistics, that is, the task of understanding the world from incomplete and/or imperfect data. Most of the questions and answers reported in the media use incomplete data to make statements that extend beyond the actual objects counted or measured. Going beyond the data requires special techniques: statistical techniques."-Andee Rubin, *Math that Matters* report

[Threshold Magazine online](#)